



# DARPA TRIAGE CHALLENGE

## Workshop 2 Operations Guide December 10, 2024



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## Contents

1. Overview.....	3
2. Team Participation.....	3
3. Systems Competition Task Operations.....	3
4. Schedule.....	4
5. Location.....	4
6. Registration.....	5
7. Systems Team Orientation.....	5
8. Systems Team Garages.....	5
9. Systems Team Systems/Network Checkouts.....	6
10. Systems Team E-Stops.....	7
11. Systems Team Staging Areas.....	7
12. Systems Team Practice Area.....	7
13. Travel.....	8
14. Area Maps.....	8
15. Lodging.....	8
16. Systems Team Move-in/Move-out.....	9
17. On-site Parking.....	10
18. Shipping.....	10
19. Systems Team Operational Considerations.....	10
20. Systems Team Safety.....	11
21. Security.....	11
22. Photo/Video Collection.....	11
23. Food & Beverage.....	11
24. Weather.....	12

## 1. Overview

This document serves as the Operations Guide for the DARPA Triage Challenge (DTC) Challenge Workshop 2 being held March 9-14, 2025, at [Guardian Centers](#) in Perry, Georgia, USA.

This Operations Guide is intended for **Systems Competition** teams who qualified to participate in Phase 2 of the DTC. **The purpose of this document is to provide details regarding (1) challenge activities, (2) event logistics and operations, and (3) supporting information to ensure a safe and successful event.**

## 2. Team Participation

In-person attendance at Workshop 2 is required for all DARPA-funded Systems Competition teams. Attendance is optional for self-funded Systems Competition teams but is strongly encouraged. As detailed in the [Event Qualification Guide](#), all Systems Competition teams must have completed two types of qualification – a Team Qualification for DTC Phase 2, and a Workshop 2 Qualification – in order to participate. Teams will be notified directly of their qualification status.

Workshop 2 is an opportunity for qualified Systems Competition teams to experiment on representative courses similar to the courses planned for Challenge Event 2 in Fall 2025. Teams will have opportunities to rehearse their runs, confirm integration with the DARPA instrumentation and scoring systems, and inform their development efforts. Runs at Workshop 2 will not be officially scored, but teams are encouraged to operate according to the [Competition Rules](#) to prepare for Challenge Event 2.

Questions related to the rules and any information provided in this Operations Guide may be submitted to the [DTC Community Forum](#).

## 3. Systems Competition Task Operations

Teams will be given opportunities to experiment on (2) two test courses throughout their time at Guardian Centers. Teams will be assigned two (2) 20-minute test runs with a 30-minute setup for a total of up to 50-minute time slots. **One (1) of the courses will operate only at night (full dark) and the other will operate in the afternoon to early evening (before and after sunset).**

DARPA Staff will be responsible for providing transportation of the Team's systems between the Team Garages and the Course Staging Areas (see Figure 1). DARPA will provide utility vehicles to support transport. Teams will be allowed to use their own vehicles for transport of team members. Per the [Competition Rules](#), all system elements together must pack down to be carried by a single vehicle (car, sports utility vehicle, pickup truck), with individual components being easily portable by a single person. This rule will not be enforced for Workshop 2; however, teams should keep this in mind while preparing and practicing for Challenge Event 2.

Operational details can be found in Section 9, System Competition Rules, in the [Competition Rules](#) document. Teams should note that no team members will be permitted to enter the Courses during a run. Once a run has finished and the course is clear, up to two (2) team members will be permitted by the Course Official to retrieve any UxSs that remain on the course. Safety is one of the most important facets of the event and the Chief Official will have the final authority to determine if any team is operating in an unsafe manner or is not operating in the spirit of the DTC.



Figure 1: Guardian Centers Site Map

## 4. Schedule

All Systems Competition teams participating in Challenge Event 2 will be divided into two groups for arrival at the event. Group 1 teams should plan to be at Guardian Centers in Perry, Georgia by 2:00 p.m. ET Sunday, March 9 And Group 2 teams should plan to be at Guardian Centers by 2:00 p.m. ET Monday, March 10. Scheduled makeup runs on Thursday, March 14 into Friday, March 15 will be used as weather or technical delay back-ups. All teams should plan to stay through 2:00 a.m. Saturday, March 15 if they want to ensure they are able to make all of their assigned time slots.

All planned activities will take place at Guardian Centers.

### Schedule Overview

Group	Sunday, March 9	Monday, March 10	Tuesday, March 11	Wednesday, March 12	Thursday, March 13	Friday, March 14	Saturday, March 15
Group 1	Orientation and Move-in	Systems/ Network Checks and Test Runs	Systems/ Network Checks and Test Runs	Test Runs	Makeup Runs (as needed)	Makeup Runs (as needed)	Makeup Runs (as needed – early morning)
Group 2		Orientation and Move-in	Systems/ Network Checks	Systems/ Network Checks and Test Runs	Test Runs	Makeup Runs (as needed)	Makeup Runs (as needed – early morning)

## 5. Location

Workshop 2 will be held at Guardian Centers in Perry, Georgia.

[Guardian Centers](#)  
 600 Perry Parkway  
 Perry, GA 31069

Teams are not permitted to contact Guardian Centers for information related to the DTC or the facilities. All questions about the Guardian Centers or Workshop 2 should be submitted to the [DTC Community Forum](#).

## 6. Registration

Systems Competition Teams are limited to ten (10) members in attendance at Workshop 2. Each individual participant must register on the website below by 11:59 p.m. ET Monday, February 3, 2025. Systems Team Leads must register their robotic systems separately to their individual registration. All platform types intended to be used in Workshop 2 must be submitted via the [Team Portal](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET Sunday, January 5, 2025 to meet the Event Qualification requirements. Team Leads should include updated narrative descriptions and demonstration videos of the platforms successfully completing the qualification tasks listed in Section 5 of the [Event Qualification Guide](#).

**Registration Website:** <https://events.sa-meetings.com/DTCW2/>

**Username:** DTCW2

**Password:** Perry032025!

## 7. Systems Team Orientation

All registered team members are required to attend the Team Orientation before participating in any other event activities. Orientation for Group 1 teams will take place Sunday, March 9, 2025, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET and orientation for Group 2 teams will take place Monday, March 10, 2025, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET. Venue access and check-in will begin at 2:00 p.m. each day. The orientations will be held at Guardian Centers in Building 101, Classroom 5 (see Figure 1).

During the Team Orientation, teams will receive:

1. Overview of Workshop 2
2. Staff introductions
3. Information on move-in and move-out procedures
4. Information on systems and network checkout procedures
5. Workshop details
6. Safety brief

## 8. Systems Team Garages

Teams will be provided a tent in a gravel parking lot as their Team Garage for their time at Workshop 2. Teams will have specific windows during which they will be able to access their Team Garage (see table below) on event days *after* they have attended team orientation.

Date	Venue Access Hours
Sunday, March 9	2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Monday, March 10	1:00 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. (next day)
Tuesday, March 11	2:30 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. (next day)
Wednesday, March 12	2:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. (next day)
Thursday, March 13	3:30 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. (next day)
Friday, March 14	3:30 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. (next day)

Each tent will notionally be 20 feet (6.1 m) x 30 feet (9.1 m) and will have opaque plastic siding. Each Team Garage will be outfitted with fourteen (14) banquet tables and ten (10) chairs. No computers, monitors, or power distribution equipment will be provided. Team Garages will be located outdoors and

will not be heated. Teams may bring and utilize their own heaters; however, teams will receive limited power and will be responsible for prioritizing their power needs. Teams are not permitted to bring gas or diesel fueled generators.

Teams may operate ground robots within their assigned Team Garage as long as operations are deemed safe as determined by DTC Staff and such operations do not interfere with adjacent teams. Teams operating multirotors or other aircraft should note that such aerial vehicles are *not* permitted to launch or fly in or around the Team Garages, unless they are utilizing the DARPA-provided Flight Cage. The Flight Cage will be a frame tent located in the Team Garage area and will notionally be 20 feet (6.1 m) W x 30 feet (9.1 m) L x 8 feet (2.4 m) H with netted siding. No personnel are permitted to be inside the Flight Cage while systems are active. Personnel will operate and monitor their active systems outside of the Flight Cage. Teams can sign up for same-day Flight Cage time slots when they are on site.

DARPA will not control wireless interference in the Team Garages. A single, wired Internet connection will be provided to each team. Teams are permitted to bring their own, unmanaged switches to expand ports available. Teams are prohibited from using wireless access points (APs) and other wireless connections in their Team Garage, including but not limited to: any Wi-Fi/802.11 connection, cellular hotspots, and Wi-Fi tethering. Cellular service will be available throughout the venue.

DARPA will provide power to the teams in the following locations: Team Garages, Practice Area, and in the Course Staging Areas. Each Team Garage will have two (2) 120V, single-phase, 20A circuits and NEMA 5-20R T-slot receptacles. Teams should plan accordingly to have the correct adapters, chargers, and power strips to match their individual team needs. International teams should pay special attention to voltages common in the United States and bring any necessary equipment. If teams have additional power needs/requests, they should notify DARPA via [TriageChallenge@darpa.mil](mailto:TriageChallenge@darpa.mil) before January 5, 2025.

Teams are only permitted in the Course Staging Areas and Practice Area during their scheduled runs and must otherwise remain in their Team Garages while on site. DTC Staff will be available during all event hours in the Team Garage area to answer questions or assist with on-site issues.

## 9. Systems Team Systems/Network Checkouts

Prior to operating their systems on the designated Courses or in the Practice Area, teams will be required to complete a Systems/Network Checkout. Time will be allocated for each team to complete these tasks within the first two days of their arrival. If a team fails to successfully pass their systems and network check, they will be required to use their scheduled runs to complete this task.

Teams should plan for the following during the Systems/Network Checkout:

- Confirmation of platform roster and qualifications based on the [Event Qualification Guide](#)
- Successful operation of the Tier 1, Tier 2 (UGVs only), and Tier 3 E-Stops (see Section 10)
- Successful demonstration of the following fail-safes in the Practice Area:
  - o Geofence (DARPA will provide GPS coordinates to define a geofence for Courses and Practice Area)
  - o Loss of communications
  - o Low battery
  - o Manual takeover from hand controller
- Successful demonstration of connectivity between Operator Control Station (OCS) and systems
- Successful demonstration of connectivity between OCS and Command Post (CP) by successfully submitting a casualty report to the Scoring Server.

- DARPA recommends submitting all casualty reports to eliminate potential typos or formatting issues prior to entering the courses.
- Successful connection of OCS display(s) to HDMI encoder(s)
- Demonstration of successful RemoteID transmission and compliance with FAA regulations on all UAS

## 10. Systems Team E-Stops

DARPA has established a set of emergency stop (E-Stop) requirements to ensure the safety of personnel, equipment, and the Course environments. These requirements are designed to address common and/or anticipated modes of failure and provide a consistent, predictable method to disable equipment without creating additional hazards. All systems participating in Workshop 2 will be required to demonstrate and utilize a Tier 1 wireless emergency stop and Tier 3 on-platform emergency stop as described in the [Competition Rules](#). The Tier 2 recovery wireless emergency stop is encouraged but not required for UASs. The Tier 2 recovery wireless emergency stop is required for UGVs.

## 11. Systems Team Staging Areas

All systems will be required to start in the Staging Areas at the entrance to the Courses. The Staging Areas will include a 10'x10' tented and netted space for the team operator. The launch area will be 5' from the netted team staging area. The launch area itself will be 30'x30' where 5 total vehicles (UAS or UGV) may occupy/launch. In the Staging Area, teams will be provided 2.5 banquet tables, six (6) chairs, and one (1) 120V, single-phase, 20A circuit with NEMA 5-20R T-slot receptacles. Teams are permitted up to six (6) personnel in the Staging Areas; these personnel are designated as the Pit Crew. See the [Competition Rules](#) for Pit Crew details.

DARPA will be responsible for moving data from the Team OCS to the Command Post (CP). Teams must provide these data streams to DARPA via hardwire connection with their OCS:

- HDMI encoder connection(s) to the OCS display(s), and
- a wired Ethernet connection between OCS and Scoring Server.

DARPA will connect from there to the CP. DARPA will work with teams while on site to make the appropriate connections and verify them before their first scored run.

## 12. Systems Team Practice Area

Teams will be assigned one (1) 30-minute time slot with 20 minutes of setup in the Practice Area where they can test their systems as part of their Systems/Network checks (see Figure 1). Additional practice times will be available by sign up, weather permitting. The space is approximately 100 feet (30.5 m) long x 100 feet (30.5 m) wide and 100 feet (30.5 m) in height. The Practice Area will include a 10'x10' tented and netted space for the team operator and a 10'x10' space for launching platforms. In the Practice Area, teams will be provided three (3) banquet tables, six (6) chairs, and one (1) 120V, single-phase, 20A circuit with NEMA 5-20R T-slot receptacles.

In the Practice Area, teams may operate all their systems, both air and ground. Platforms will be able to take off and fly within the Practice Area for practice flights. Teams are required to have a Safety Officer who is responsible for preserving the safety of personnel and property during all practice runs. No personnel are permitted to be inside the Practice Area while systems are active. Personnel will operate and monitor their active systems outside of the outlined Practice Area.

### 13. Travel

The [Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport](#) is the closest major airport to the Workshop 2 venue. It is a one hour, thirty-minute (1 hr, 30 min) drive to Guardian Centers in no traffic. Hartsfield-Jackson serves more than 150 US destinations and more than 70 international destinations in 43 countries.

### 14. Area Maps

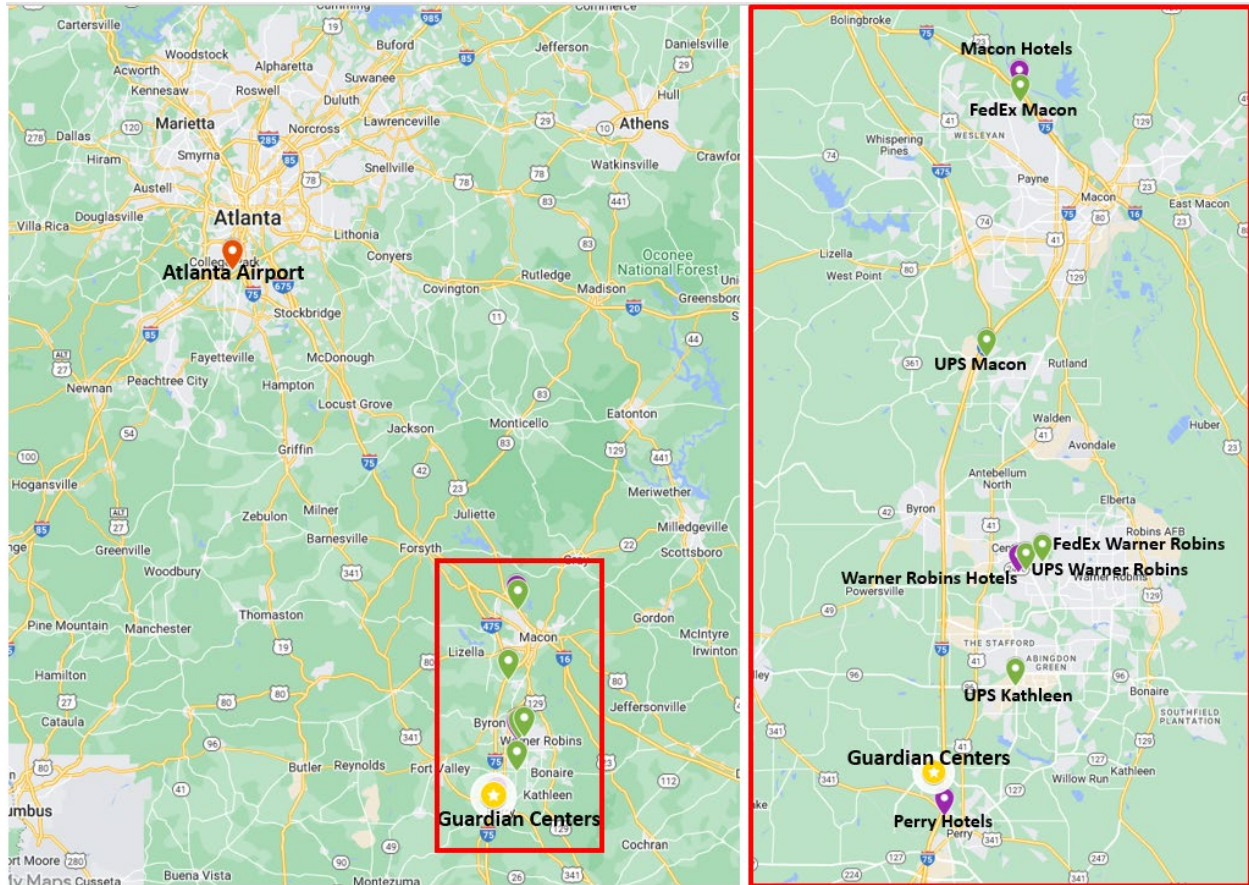


Figure 2: Area Maps with Key Locations

### 15. Lodging

Teams are responsible for making their own hotel reservations or sleeping arrangements. Local hotels and distances to Guardian Centers are listed below. The hotel list is provided solely for informational purposes for the convenience of the teams. DARPA does not promote or prefer any of the hotels listed below.

Name	Address	Phone	Distance to Venue
<a href="#">Holiday Inn Express Perry</a>	1502 Sam Nunn Blvd, Perry, GA 31069	478-224-3000	2.5 miles / 6 min drive
<a href="#">Hampton Inn Perry</a>	102 Hampton Ct, Perry, GA 31069	478-987-7681	2.8 miles / 6 min drive
<a href="#">La Quinta Inn &amp; Suites Perry</a>	102 Plaza Dr, Perry, GA 31069	478-287-4431	3.6 miles / 8 min drive
<a href="#">Best Western Plus Warner Robins</a>	1056 GA Highway 96,	478-313-5700	7.6 miles /



	Warner Robins, GA 31088		11 min drive
<a href="#">Holiday Inn Express Warner Robins</a>	4020 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, GA 31093	478-333-2737	11.6 miles / 16 min drive
<a href="#">Hampton Inn Warner Robins</a>	4000 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, GA 31093	478-953-9443	11.7 miles / 15 min drive
<a href="#">Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites Warner Robins</a>	221 Margie Dr, Warner Robins, GA 31088	478-953-4200	11.7 miles / 18 min drive
<a href="#">Home2 Suites Warner Robins</a>	205 Willie Lee Pkwy, Warner Robins, GA 31093	478-333-2954	11.8 miles / 16 min drive
<a href="#">La Quinta Warner Robins</a>	4080 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, GA, 31093	478-285-9623	11.9 miles / 15 min drive
<a href="#">Hilton Garden Inn Warner Robins</a>	207 Willie Lee Pkwy, Warner Robins, GA 31093	478-971-1550	12.0 miles / 17 min drive
<a href="#">Candlewood Suites Warner Robins</a>	110 Willie Lee Pkwy, Warner Robins, GA 31088	(478) 333-6850	12.1 miles / 15 min drive
<a href="#">Courtyard Warner Robins</a>	589 Carl Vinson Pkwy, Warner Robins, GA 31088	478-602-6200	13.3 miles / 20 min drive
<a href="#">Hampton Inn &amp; Suites Macon</a>	5010 Eisenhower Pkwy, Macon, GA 31206	478-803-4900	23.6 miles / 25 min drive
<a href="#">TownePlace Suites Macon</a>	1550 Mercer University Dr, Macon, GA 31204	478-812-8522	25.4 miles / 25 min drive
<a href="#">Marriott City Center Macon</a>	240 Coliseum Dr, Macon, GA 31217	478-621-5300	29.5 miles / 30 min drive
<a href="#">Residence Inn Macon</a>	3900 Sheraton Dr, Macon, GA 31210	478-475-4280	32.3 miles / 32 min drive
<a href="#">Home2 Suites Macon</a>	3963 River Pl Dr, Macon, GA 31210	478-803-5300	32.4 miles / 31 min drive
<a href="#">Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites Macon</a>	4035 Sheraton Dr, Macon, GA 31210	478-738-9007	32.4 miles / 31 min drive
<a href="#">Courtyard Macon</a>	3990 Sheraton Dr, Macon, GA 31210	478-477-8899	32.4 miles / 31 min drive
<a href="#">SpringHill Suites Macon</a>	4630 Sheraton Dr, Macon, GA 31210	478-803-9100	34.0 miles / 32 min drive

Teams also have the opportunity to utilize Guardian Centers’ [on-site lodging](#). Lodging options and pricing are listed below. Teams will need to coordinate directly with Guardian Centers to check availability and book on-site lodging by contacting Doug Lang at [DLang@guardiancenters.com](mailto:DLang@guardiancenters.com) and referencing the DARPA Triage Challenge. Teams staying on site at Guardian Centers will not be able to access their Team Garage, the Practice Area, or the Courses outside of the access hours listed in section 8 – Systems Team Garages.

- Cabins \$85 per night (single occupancy; 2 bedrooms/shared common space/shared bathroom)
- Cabins \$65 per night (double occupancy; 2 bedrooms/shared common space/shared bathroom)
- Enhanced \$55 per night (single bed with foot locker or side table in open bay room (6-12 pax per room))
- Open Bay \$45 per night (single cot in open bay room (3-100+ pax per room))

## 16. Systems Team Move-in/Move-out

Teams will move into their Team Garages at Guardian Centers in two groups. Group 1 will move in on a staggered schedule from 3:50 p.m. – 5:10 p.m. Sunday, March 9, and Group 2 will move in on a staggered schedule from 3:50 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 10. A detailed move-in schedule will be

provided closer to the event date. Move-in times will also align with the systems and network checkout schedule, so teams are asked to not arrive before their assigned time slot.

Teams must check out with the Team Liaison when they are departing the venue for the day (each day).

Teams must return their workspace to its original condition and check out with the Team Liaison on or before 2:00 a.m. Saturday, March 15.

## 17. On-site Parking

Each Systems Team is permitted to bring up to five (5) total vehicles to park at Guardian Centers. Teams are permitted to park two (2) vehicles and one (1) trailer (up to 20 feet) in the designated Team Parking Lot near the Team Garages (see Figure 1). These vehicles should be used to transport platforms between the Team Garage and Courses. The three (3) remaining team vehicles must be parked in the Overflow Parking Lot (see Figure 1). DARPA will provide continuous shuttle service between the Overflow Parking Lot and the Team Garages to transfer team members. All team vehicles parked on site should fit in a standard parking spot. Parking passes will be distributed to the identified Team Lead at Team Orientation.

## 18. Shipping

Teams are responsible for shipping their equipment to an outside provider as well as pickup and transfer of the equipment to and from Guardian Centers. Due to liability reasons, Guardian Centers staff will be unable to receive or sign for any team shipments. Local shipping centers are listed below and illustrated in Figure 2. DARPA does not promote or prefer any shipping provider below.

Name	Address	Phone	Distance to Venue
<a href="#">The UPS Store - Kathleen</a>	1114 SR 96 Ste C-1, Kathleen, GA 31047	478-988-1124	7.2 miles / 11 min drive
<a href="#">The UPS Store – Warner Robins</a>	2929 Watson Blvd #2, Warner Robins, GA 31093	478-953-5746	12.4 miles / 19 min drive
<a href="#">The UPS Store – Bonaire</a>	530 GA-247, Bonaire, GA 31005	478-551-4491	13.1 miles / 22 min drive
<a href="#">FedEx Print and Ship Center – Warner Robins, Inside Walmart</a>	2720 Watson Blvd Warner Robins, GA 31093	478-333-4532	13.2 miles / 21 min drive
<a href="#">The UPS Store – Macon</a>	4339 Hartley Bridge Rd, Macon, GA 31216	478-781-6066	18.6 miles / 20 min drive
<a href="#">FedEx Print and Ship Center – Macon</a>	181 Tom Hill Sr Blvd, Macon, GA 31210	478-474-1246	32.6 miles / 32 min drive

## 19. Systems Team Operational Considerations

Teams are responsible for assessing the potential dangers and/or real-world limitations of their technical solutions to be tested, in the context of safety, to both personnel and equipment. If a team is unsure if a specific piece of equipment is allowable, the team should check with DARPA via the [DTC Community Forum](#) prior to arrival at the event.

Standard radio frequencies (i.e., ISM bands) are permitted for use in and around the site. Teams should note that technologies that either require amplification or non-standard frequencies may be limited to within the Courses and possibly not be allowed for use within the Team Garages. If communication

interference is discovered between systems, priority will be given to the team experimenting on the Course.

Teams may only conduct flight operations in the following locations at Guardian Centers: the Practice Area, Flight Cage, and the two (2) Courses, including the Launch Areas.

Platforms that rely on fuel-based power sources are not permitted at Workshop 2.

## 20. Systems Team Safety

DARPA will provide a safety brief at the Team Orientation. No manual physical intervention or entry by any (human) team members on the Courses will be permitted during a run. Once a run has finished and the course is clear, up to two (2) team members will be permitted by the Course Official to retrieve any UxSs that remain on the course.

DARPA will provide reflective safety vests, hard hats, and protective eyewear that will be required to be worn in the Course Staging Areas and Launch Areas, and in the Practice Area at all times. Team members are also required to provide and wear their own long pants and closed-toed shoes in these areas.

DARPA encourages teams to devise their own battery safety protocol to follow on site. When not in use, teams should store lithium batteries in fire retardant battery bags, no more than five (5) batteries per bag. Batteries should be stored at room temperature between 40°F (4°C) and 70°F (21°C).

## 21. Security

Guardian Centers is a fenced in facility with 24-hour gate security. Systems Teams are encouraged to secure their equipment when they are not in their Team Garages or bring their equipment with them if leaving the venue.

Team Garages are open spaces. Teams must respect each other's privacy and property. If Systems Teams do not want their systems viewed, they are encouraged to bring covering material for when they are being transported or stored in their tent.

DARPA is not responsible for any lost or stolen equipment. Nevertheless, acts of theft or sabotage will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disqualification.

## 22. Photo/Video Collection

DARPA intends to capture photographs and video during Workshop 2 for use in production materials and to provide situational awareness of progress throughout the Courses. Systems Teams may collect video and photographs of their systems operating within the Courses, Launch Areas, Practice Area, Flight Cage, and their Team Garage. Teams are not permitted to take photographs or video of other teams' equipment or operations without explicit permission. Teams are also not permitted to take photographs or videos of other groups or events at Guardian Centers.

## 23. Food & Beverage

Guardian Centers provides a full service on-site commercial dining facility. Systems Teams are encouraged to utilize the on-site dining facility, bring food with them each day, or travel off site to purchase food and beverage. There are many food outlets within short driving distance (15 minutes) of the venue.

Guardian Centers dining facility meals must be purchased no later than 10 days in advance and prices are in accordance with prevailing U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) rates: \$16 for breakfast, \$19 for lunch, and \$28 for dinner. Standard availability includes: one hot option, soup/salad, sandwiches, chips, dessert, and a drink. Boxed (to go/delivered) options are available. If Systems Teams choose to utilize the on-site dining facility, they are responsible for coordinating directly with Guardian Centers by contacting Doug Lang at [DLang@guardiancenters.com](mailto:DLang@guardiancenters.com) and referencing the DARPA Triage Challenge.

Water will be provided by DARPA each day at Guardian Centers.

## **24. Weather**

The weather in March in Perry, GA is mild, with temperatures fluctuating between an average low of 45°F (7°C) and an average high of 71°F (22°C). In March, the average relative humidity in Perry is 62% and the average chance of precipitation is 29%. All team event activities at Guardian Centers will be located outdoors. Participants should be prepared for all types of weather by bringing layered clothing/jackets, gloves, hats, umbrellas, rain jackets, sunscreen, heaters, etc.